Modification of TDF Scheme

2172. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has modified the Technical Development Fund Scheme (TDFS) to enable the Industries to enter into foreign collaboration for imports of drawings and designs as also capital goods beyond the ceiling of Rs. 1 crores;

(b) if so, what are the broad features of the modifications made and how far it will go to improve the quality of output by the existing manufacturing units, to upgrade technology, to achieve cost reduction. to enhance exports or to achieve modernisation and rationalisation of product-mix; and

(c) what are the names of the companies and units which availed of TDFS assistance upto 70 per cent of the total cost of their projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) and (b) The Scheme has been modified only to the extent that the ceiling limit of foreign exchange allocation has been raised from US $ 5 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore per unit per year. The original scheme itself provides that in case the outgo of foreign exchange marginally exceeds the ceiling limit, excess amount is adjusted against the entitlement of the applicant company in the subsequent year.

The modified scheme will now enable industries to avail of assistance on a larger scale than before to implement their scheme for upgradation of technoogy, modernisation etc.

(c) The proposals approved under the Scheme of Technical Development Fund for import of technology, capital goods etc. are entitled for financing by Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI). It is not in public interest to indulge any information relating to such cases of financing by IDBI.

Business communication through INSAT-IB

2173. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are formulating a policy to allow business communication or dedicated captive networks using INSAT-IB;

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the plan;

(c) whether certain networks have already been authorised; if so, what are the particulars thereof and their uses; and

(d) the particulars of the demands from the public sector corporations and others being pursued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The policy is under formulation and outlines of the same will be made known on its finalisation.

(c) Yes, Sir. One dedicated captive network has been authorised and is working for Oil and Natural Gas Commission linking their Off-shore platforms with their earth station on the mainland—Bombay Uran.

(d) Firm demands for satellite based telecommunication networks have been received from National Thermal Power Corporation, Gas Authority of India Ltd., National Fertilizers Ltd., Indian Telephone Industrits & Hindu. Preliminary enquiries have been received from several other organisations also.

Industries in Meghalaya

2174. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG: Will the Ministry of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the industries which have been licensed for being set up in Meghalaya, district-wise, during the Sixth Five Year Plan period, year-wise;